

NATIONAL TRIBAL CAUCUS

June 13, 2012

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NTC Policy Advisor

Administrator Lisa P. Jackson
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20460

RE: CW A 404(c) Authority

Dear Administrator Jackson;

I am writing on behalf of the National Tribal Caucus to request that you use your authority under the Clean Water Act to protect Alaska's Bristol Bay Watershed. During our meeting in Albuquerque June 4 -6, 2012, the National Tribal Caucus voted unanimously to support the Bristol Bay tribes' request to invoke your authority under CWA404(c).

Wild salmon stock worldwide has been disseminating in the name of development and progress. Here, we have the last known wild salmon fishery of its size that provides 48 of the world's wild salmon population being threatened by the potential development of a world class open pit copper/gold porphyry mine. We all know what happens to fish with the introduction of copper into their environment.

Bristol Bay, Alaska and its people are identified and known for salmon. The Alaskan Native cultures of Bristol Bay are ones of the last known intact salmon cultures of the world. Salmon are integral to these cultures as subsistence food; as the foundation of the spirituality & social structure; and as an economic factor through the commercial & sport fishing industries of the region. Salmon have always been a reliable renewable resource, generation after generation.

Under section 404(c), you may exercise a veto over the specification by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers or by a state of a site for the discharge of dredged or fill material. You may also prohibit the specification of a site under section 404(c) with regard to any existing or potential disposal site before a permit application has been submitted to or approved by the Corps or a state. You are authorized to prohibit or otherwise restrict a site whenever he/she determines that the discharge of dredged or fill material is having or will have an "unacceptable adverse effect" on municipal water supplies, shellfish beds and fishery areas (including spawning and breeding areas), wildlife, or recreational areas.

With the mining company's published information on the low grade quality of copper to be mined, the inferred amount of copper to be recovered, the amount of acidic waste generated, the proposed amount of water required for operation, the estimated acreage of wetlands & streams eliminated and EPA's priority of protecting the waters & watersheds of USA, the National Tribal Caucus unanimously request you to use your authority under the Clean Water Act to protect and preserve the salmon, wildlife,

vegetation, berries, habitat and water, not to mention the people and cultures of Bristol Bay.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Clay Bravo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Clay" being more prominent than the last name "Bravo".

Clay Bravo
Chairman, National Tribal Caucus